

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 132680 TOSEC 060012

EXDIS, FOR DAVID ANDERSON ONLY--WITH SECRETARY'S PARTY

FOL RPT BONN 09441 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USBERLIN FRANKFURT
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QUOTE

S E C R E T BONN 09441

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), GW, WB

SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE FRG AND BERLIN:

CONCEPT AND TRIP SUMMARY

1. FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WHITE HOUSE SURVEY TEAM,
WE SET FORTH BELOW OUR CONCEPT OF THE PRESIDENT'S
BILATERAL VISIT AND A SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND
OPTIONS FOR THE TRIP. A SEPARATE MESSAGE TREATS THE
PRELIMINARY TRIP SCHEDULE IN MORE DETAIL.

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I. SETTING.

THE PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL VISIT TO THE FRG WILL
COME FOLLOWING STATE VISITS BY LEONID BREZHNEV AND THE
QUEEN OF ENGLAND, AND SHORTLY AFTER A SUMMIT MEETING OF
THE EC-9 IN BREMEN AND DIRECTLY BEFORE THE ECONOMIC
SUMMIT. THESE VISITS FORM A CONTEXT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S

TRIP. THEY UNDERSCORE THE FRG'S GROWING ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS -- A ROLE THAT HAS MOVED THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC INTO A POSITION OF EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP ON A RANGE OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES. THE BREZHNEV VISIT ALSO UNDERSCORES THE COMPLEXITY OF GERMANY'S PROBLEMS, AS A DIVIDED COUNTRY, IN WEIGHING EASTERN AGAINST WESTERN CONSIDERATIONS.

THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP WILL HAVE A SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE AMONG FRG SUMMITS. WE ARE GERMANY'S MOST IMPORTANT PARTNER, AND THE STATE WHICH CAN PLAY THE MOST VITAL ROLE -- FOR GOOD OR ILL -- IN GERMANY'S AND EUROPE'S FUTURE.

THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP WILL ALSO COME IN A PERIOD OF LINGERING TENSION IN US-FRG RELATIONS, ALTHOUGH THE ATMOSPHERE IS ALREADY SHOWING SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT. SOME OF THE TENSION REFLECTS UNCERTAINTY IN THE FRG ABOUT US POLICIES AND SKEPTICISM WHETHER WE HAVE A CONSISTENT VIEW OF RELATIONS WITH OUR ALLIES, WITH THE EAST, AND WITH THE THIRD WORLD.

THE PRESIDENT WILL ALSO BE IN THE FRG AT A TIME OF ECONOMIC HARDSHIP AMONG US FORCES IN EUROPE, AND OF SOME LINGERING DOUBTS IN THE US ABOUT THE VALUE OF OUR FORCE COMMITMENTS TO NATO.

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FINALLY, THE VISIT WILL OCCUR DURING A MATURE PERIOD OF HELMUT SCHMIDT'S CHANCELLORSHIP, WITH SIGNS OF BOTH STABILITY AND FRAYING AT THE EDGES OF THE COALITION.

II. CONCEPT AND PURPOSE.

THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT IS A CHANCE TO UNDERSCORE THE VALUE WE ATTACH TO THE US-FRG RELATIONSHIP, TO STRESS THE COMMONALITY OF OUR INTERESTS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FRG'S LONG-TERM ROLE AS PART OF THE WEST, AND TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR A GROWING GERMAN ROLE IN SUPPORT OF OUR COMMON INTERESTS. AGAINST THIS BROAD BACKGROUND, CURRENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BONN AND WASHINGTON WILL FALL INTO PERSPECTIVE.

THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT IS ALSO A CHANCE TO REMIND AMERICANS AND OTHERS OF OUR INTEREST AND PRESENCE IN THE FRG AND IN EUROPE AS A WHOLE.

FINALLY, THIS TRIP IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT

OUR POSITION AS SENIOR PARTNER IN A VITAL ALLIANCE
SYSTEM WHICH MAINTAINS PEACE AND STABILITY, A PROCESS
SERVING BOTH EASTERN AND WESTERN INTERESTS.

III. GUIDELINES FOR VISIT.

THE ABOVE THOUGHTS TRANSLATE INTO SEVERAL
CONSIDERATIONS WE HAVE USED IN PRELIMINARY PLANNING
FOR THE TRIP:

-- WE SEE THE NEED BOTH FOR MAXIMUM TIME FOR DISCUSSIONS
WITH THE CHANCELLOR, BILATERALLY AND DURING THE WIDER
SUMMIT, AND FOR BROAD PUBLIC EXPOSURE OUTSIDE BONN.

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-- WE BELIEVE A STATE VISIT IS THE BEST CATEGORY FOR
THE TRIP, AND THE ONE USED BY RECENT TOP-LEVEL VISITORS.
AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED SOME POSSIBLE
SHORTCUTS TO EASE THE PROTOCOL PROBLEMS OF A STATE
VISIT.

-- WE SEE A FIELD VISIT WITH US FORCES AS SERVING
SEVERAL PURPOSES. SUCH A VISIT CAN UNDERSCORE THE US
DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO EUROPE; IT CAN STRESS TO US FORCES
THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR MISSION; AND, LIKE OTHER PARTS
OF THE TRIP AS A WHOLE, IT CAN MAKE CLEAR TO THE
AMERICAN PUBLIC THE REALITY THAT OUR COMMITMENT IN
EUROPE SERVES BOTH US AND EUROPEAN DEFENSE.

-- IN ADDITION TO SHOWING HIS FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE
CHANCELLOR, WE BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT SHOULD ALSO MAKE
CLEAR AMERICA'S CONTINUING INTERESTS IN THE FRG AS A
WHOLE. BRIEF MEETINGS WITH OTHER PARTY LEADERS WOULD
BE A SIGN OF SUCH INTEREST; OBVIOUSLY A MEETING WITH
OPPOSITION LEADER HELMUT KOHL WOULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT
SUCH DISCUSSION.

-- WE SEE A VISIT TO BERLIN AS A WAY TO UNDERSCORE US
DETERMINATION TO PRESERVE THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY, AND
ALSO AS THE LOGICAL OCCASION FOR A SPEECH AIMED AT BOTH
A BERLIN AND A GLOBAL AUDIENCE.

IV. TRIP SUMMARY.

BILATERAL DAY ONE (JULY 14)

MORNING:

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OFFICE ARRIVAL CEREMONY
COURTESY CALL ON FEDERAL PRESIDENT
MEETING WITH FEDERAL CHANCELLOR (2 1/2 HOURS)
WORKING LUNCHEON WITH CHANCELLOR

AFTERNOON:
PRESS CONFERENCE
MOTORCADE THROUGH BONN (SIGN GOLDEN BOOK AT CITY
HALL, LAY WREATH)
MEET WITH LEADERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES
STAFF TIME
STATE DINNER

BILATERAL DAY TWO (JULY 15)

MORNING:
VISIT A MAJOR GERMAN CITY (WIESBADEN OR FRANKFURT)
VISIT A US MILITARY INSTALLATION (BRIGADE 76)

AFTERNOON:
VISIT BERLIN
GREET MEMBERS OF US OCCUPATION FORCES
MAJOR SPEECH TO LARGE BERLIN AUDIENCE
RETURN TO BONN
EVENING FREE
STOESSEL

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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